

APPLIED PHYSIOLOGY. By Samson Wright. Revised by C. A. Keele, E. Neil, and J. O. B. Jepson. Tenth Edition. (Pp. vii + 555; figs. 471. 60s.) London: Oxford University Press, 1961.

TEXTBOOK OF PHYSIOLOGY AND BIOCHEMISTRY. By G. H. Bell, J. N. Davidson, and H. Scarborough. Fifth Edition. (Pp. xi + 1117; illustrated. 70s.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone, 1961.

A YEAR which sees new editions of Samson Wright and B.D.S. (and also of Best and Taylor, which has not been submitted for review) is a vintage year indeed. Samson Wright is a very old friend, having been published first in 1926, and many of us have leaned heavily on him for the second M.B., the final M.B., the Primary F.R.C.S., and the M.R.C.P. The book now has a completely new look, with pages measuring 11 x 8½ inches printed in double columns, and an attractive bright red cover. It is only 1¼ inches thick and is much easier to handle than the stocky 1952 edition. The new authors have revised the text extensively for the tenth edition and have brought most of it (but not the account of digestion) up to date. They have made good a defect of previous editions by providing an account of the special senses. The book remains what it has always been—a concise account of human physiology, based on the experimental evidence (much of it shown in diagrammatic form) and related to clinical problems. The presentation is clear, orderly, and rather dogmatic. It will undoubtedly retain its popularity as a text for undergraduate and post-graduate students and as a work of reference for those in practice.

B.D.S. is a comparative newcomer, but has reached its fifth edition after only eleven years. It covers much the same ground as Samson Wright, but deals with biochemistry in much greater detail and employs a more continuous form of writing. The combination of a physiologist, a biochemist, and a clinician provides a superbly integrated account of physiology and biochemistry and of their clinical implications. The text is a pleasure to read and is profusely illustrated with clear and helpful diagrams, X-rays, and photographs. I was interested to see two of my own colour photographs in Fig. 10, 14. B.D.S. can be recommended warmly to students and practitioners at all stages of their careers. It will be appreciated particularly by those who like to be taught, and to have their minds stimulated by, good prose.

R. B. W.

A SHORT MANUAL OF VENEREAL DISEASES AND TREPONEMATOSIS. By R. C. L. Batchelor, M.A., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., F.R.C.S.E., F.R.S.P.E., and Marjorie Murrell, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., M.B., B.S., D.P.H., F.R.C.S.E. Second Edition. (Pp. 316+xvi; figs. 87. 25s.) Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd., 1961.

THIS publication is intended for nurses, medical students, and general practitioners. It gives concise and adequate descriptions of the venereal diseases and treponematoses. Routine diagnostic procedures are outlined in detail. One chapter is devoted to serological tests and another to ethical and sociological considerations.

The production, paper, and type are excellent and the illustrations—although one appears upside down—are first class. The valuable experiences and opinions of the authors are clearly presented. They are again to be congratulated. This is an excellent book.

F. S. B.

A STUDY OF HOME ACCIDENTS IN ABERDEEN. By Ian A. G. Macqueen. (Pp. viii + 100. 12s. 6d.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone, 1960.

THE publication is an interesting statistical survey of home accidents occurring in a two-year period in Aberdeen. The age incidence, type of accident, and causative factors are well tabulated.

The social and housing conditions obviously play a large part in home accidents, and the suggestions for prevention are most helpful.

The book should be of interest to members of the public health service and of organisations concerned with housing problems in large communities. It is of limited value to members of the profession in the hospital service.

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